



Many Episcopal parishes provide no education on baptism and confirmation. Parishioners are expected to just “pick it up” as they go. This book explores the two rites, giving attention to questions like these:

- How did Jewish ritual washings and John the Baptist’s baptism influence Christian baptism that emerged at Pentecost?
- How were baptism and confirmation understood and practiced in the first century Church as recorded in the New Testament book of Acts? What did St. Paul say about baptism in his New Testament letters?
- How did the Church understand and practice baptism and confirmation in the context of the second and third centuries?
- In what ways were baptism and confirmation understood and practiced throughout the Middle Ages, given that millennium’s diverse contexts?
- How did the reformers alter the understandings and practices of baptism and confirmation, and how have the changes influenced us today?
- How have Episcopalians understood and practiced baptism? What dramatic changes occurred with the 1979 Prayer Book, and why?
- What challenges has the emerging post-Christian context created for our understandings and practices of baptism and confirmation?
- How might we strengthen our understandings and practices of baptism and confirmation today to help us stem the tide of people who leave the church after being confirmed, viewing the rite as a “graduation”?

We need to give increased attention to baptism and confirmation, for as Bob Dylan said, “The times, they are a’changin’.”



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